

Heart Failure

Focused Physical Exam

Look for signs of the disease or condition and signs of anticipated complications—this takes thought. The extent of the physical exam is also guided by the patient's history, and so the following list is not exhaustive.

1. **Overall appearance:** This is part of the physical exam and should be documented for any chronic condition.
2. **Mental status:** Alertness may be relevant in severe CHF.
3. **Vital signs:**
Blood pressure (BP), pulse (includes regularity), respiratory rate. Hints: Pulse rate